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All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only. No anonymous or signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted. Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should be sent before 11 a.m. on day of publication. After that, the supply is limited. Only supplied for Cash. Telegraphic Address: PRESS. Cables: A.S.W. Ltd. Ed. Lieber. P.O. Box 34 Telephone No. 13.

DEATH.

On July 10th, at Hongkong, ROBERT DUNCAN, Funeral will take place this (Thursday) evening at 6 p.m.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VOUX ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JULY 11th, 1907.

SPEAKING last month of the ancestry of the Mongolian horse, we remarked that we might learn from the distribution of the horse, past and present, something which would prove useful in the ethnography of the ancient peoples. It is occasionally useful as well as interesting to reproduce the ethnological efforts of a past generation, in the light of future accessions to our knowledge. Amongst the books on the ethnography of an ancient people few attracted more attention than the late Canon Isaac Taylor's Etruscan Researches. Few scholars of the day were more competent to express an opinion on the subject, as few were more deeply versed in the beginnings of civilisation, and the early struggles of mankind to reduce his speech to the more permanent form of writing.

In many respects the ethnology of the Tuscan race is of particular interest, as through its descendant, Ancient Rome, its influence still survives, and has had an important role to play in the development of our modern civilisation. To the interest resulting from this connection with ourselves has to be added that resulting from the fact of the peculiar isolation of Etruscan culture, and the failure of all efforts to trace its connection with any of the other ancient developments of high civilisation. Etruscan art, it is allowed on all sides, owes largely its inspiration to Greece, and much of its mythology and motive is directly copied from Greek originals. So far its

remains abundantly prove, nor is there any effort made by the artists to conceal the fact. Still, with all its acknowledged indebtedness to Greek inspiration, there is something so manifestly sui generis in Etruscan art, that in all ages its critics have had to acknowledge that, deep below the surface, and in spite of all its devotion to precedent, there is something innate in the style and character of the art and the inscriptions, which resolutely refuses to be referred to any known origin amongst the great nations of antiquity.

Canon TAYLOR was amongst those who claimed what in these days was called a Turanian origin for the Etruscans; and was one of the first to support his claim with philological arguments worthy of notice. His work was published in 1874, and, considering how limited at the time was our knowledge of the ancient races of the world, displayed a wonderful amount of learning and sound judgment. He was largely swayed in his opinions by the German school of ethnologists, and partly from this reason, and partly from the difficulties inherent in the task, his essay has never been accepted as anything more than an ingenious guess. The fact of the matter is, of course, that none of his authorities are above suspicion, so that the very foundation of the edifice is unsound. Chinese, for instance, is classed as a Turanian or Ugric speech; and no knowledge is displayed of the necessary modifications undergone by a language, especially an unwritten one, in the course of centuries and millenniums, so that it is idle to look for analogies unless the languages to be compared be in the same stage. Still, although we should not be justified in accepting the Canon's argument in full, or even to any particular extent, he is usually credited with having made out a fair case for the general relationship of the people and language, and their affinities are by most modern ethnographers assumed to be Turanian in the sense in which that word was used in the last century—that is cognate with those more northern peoples of Asia, who have been called variously Ugro-Altaic, Ugric, Mongolian, or Turkic. To all or any of these names there are serious objections; and even to the term Ugric which Canon TAYLOR more especially affects, and which is perhaps the least objectionable of the lot.

And this naturally brings us to the consideration in what way any or all are concerned with the Mongol pony.

In our previous article we spoke of the original home of the Mongol horse as having been prior to the European Ice Age and the emergence of Central Asia, in the great plain of Central Europe. From that, owing to the general elevation of the temperature having brought on an invasion of these plains by the more southern Mediterranean fauna, the Mongol pony and his associates of the old northern fauna had to retreat; and their line of retreat was across the plains of northern Siberia, the climate of which, opposite to that of Europe, was then milder than now. But the animals did not undertake the journey alone; for the ancient human dwellers in central and western Europe found themselves compelled, under similar pressure from the more advanced Mediterranean peoples, to move with the animals to which they were accustomed. Such was the position of these peoples at the first dawn of history, as we learn from Herodotus. His authority is claimed to have been an ancient Greek poet whom he calls ARISTARCHUS, son of KAYSTRORBIUS, who, inspired by Apollo, is said to have wandered into the regions of the Issedones. The real authority is the old tradition of the Zoroastrians to be found in the Avesta. Beyond the Issedones, said the poet, dwell the Arimaspians, and these continually encroaching on their neighbours, forced them southwards in to the great plains of the Sogdian Mesopotamia, and eventually into India and China. The Greek poet does not give a clue to the true cause of the movement, which is, however, supplied by the Zoroastrian scriptures. The first of lands created by Ahura Mazda was the old Aryana Vaejo, "by the Good River Daitya," at first a land of bliss till Angra Mainyu came and counter-created winter. "There are ten winter months there, two summer months." The fact was that as the northern land of Asia rose, it also became colder and less habitable, so that the intrusion of the Arimaspians was by no means of their own seeking. It had the effect, as we learn from Zoroastrian, Indian, and Chinese legends, as well as from Herodotus, of bringing about the first historical human emigration, that of the Aryans and Iranians in the East.

Now Canon TAYLOR, while probably correct in connecting his Etruscans with these Arimaspians of northern Asia, has certainly

no sufficient basis for his next conclusion—that of bringing his Etruscans from the flanks of the Altai or Ural. As we have seen, the migration of the animals eastward was not so complete but that some were left behind, even in the time of Herodotus, when the Mongolian pony was still wild on the banks of the modern Dniester. Assuming that horse and man started from the same locality, as we are certainly justified in doing, we may trace both back to the level lands of south western France, and this we are the more justified in doing that, as Canon TAYLOR pointed out, there are other reasons to trace kinship between the old Etruscans and the original inhabitants of western Asia Minor.

But this establishes a further strange relationship. These cave-dwellers in southern France, notwithstanding their low civilisation, had already evolved considerable artistic power; and their rude drawings of the now extinct animals by which they were surrounded are remarkable for their truth and spirit. Amongst these drawings are their sketches of the Mongolian pony, which are so life-like in their draftsmanship that the animal cannot be mistaken. The search into the origin of the Mongolian pony has led us to the still further discovery that to the rude arts of the Bordeaux cave-dweller is really to be traced the art of the Etruscan predecessor of the Romans, in many aspects still unsurpassed. Like the Etruscan the Roman has also been classed as of an account in the artistic development of the world, and it is only since yesterday we have been able to comprehend that while both Etruscan and Roman have been able largely to assimilate the arts of their neighbours, both have possessed at all times at bottom a genuine artistic instinct which has always prevented them from being mere copyists.

There were two plague cases yesterday, making 162 to date.

A native of Germany was fined \$3 yesterday by Mr. Orme. He had had some trouble with his ricksha coolie, and was charged with refusing to pay his fare.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland yesterday sentenced a coolie to three weeks' imprisonment and six hours' stocks at the Police Court, for being found on board the launch Lee on for an unlawful purpose.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 7th July, 1907, shows that of non-Chinese there were 357 to the Library and 151 to the Museum, and of Chinese 145 to the former and 2,451 to the latter. The Library was, therefore, used by 502 persons, and the Museum by 2,602.

A correction received from the telegraph company through whom we received the messages about the assassination of the Governor of Anhai shows that the murderer, when arrested, boasted that he was an anti-monarchist. Probably this means that he is faithful to the Manchu dynasty, and not to monarchs as a class.

The woman from Kwangsi who was charged before Mr. G. N. Orme with obtaining \$40 by false pretences, in that she sold her son for that amount and then informed the detectives that he had been kidnapped, was discharged, his Worship holding that it was not a case of false pretences. The question as to the present ownership of the boy is to be referred to the Registrar-General.

In consequence of the disappearance of a number of chickens from his fowl house, the tenant of a house in Cross Street, Wanchai, marked those remaining by painting their wings red. He found a man in possession of one of these painted chickens at Bowrington and charged him with larceny. At the Police Court yesterday Mr. Hazeland found the defendant guilty and sentenced him to three weeks' imprisonment and six hours' stocks.

L'Echo de Chine mentions that when certain European residents of Shanghai went out shooting recently near the village of Pa-hao they were attacked by village dogs. The natives did not attempt to interfere, and the Europeans had to wound several of the animals before they were freed from their unwelcome attentions. The fact of Shanghai has written to the doyen of the consular corps on the subject and asked that certain recommendations be imposed upon European sportsmen so as to avoid a repetition of this occurrence in the future.

The post-mortem travels of the Scotch herring are surprising to a stay-at-home reader of the annual report of the Fishery Board for Scotland. The season did it with by the report, that of 1906, was a boom season for herrings—or, rather, it was one of a consecutive series of boom seasons. Nearly 5,000,000 cwt. were landed, and over a million and a half barrels of cured herrings were exported. The latter found their way chiefly to Germany and Russia, but also to Galicia, Poland, Eastern Rumania, Silesia, Roumania, Norway, Sweden, Holland, America and even Liberia, where (says the British Consul at Monrovia) "herring pickled in cases is another article freely patronised by the natives." Protectionists should not fail to note that "the high price of meat in Germany, owing to the operation of the tariff," contributed to the increased demand for that country. The poor people in Germany have to live on cured herrings because Protection makes the price of meat prohibitive.

The firemen of the Chinese city of Shanghai have, says L'Echo de Chine, been engaged these days in various exercises in the outskirts of the city. "The emulation is good. The Chinese copy us as well as they can. After the Volunteers, the firemen."

The Lin Yik Tong, Sydney, recently organised a fund for the relief of the distress caused by the famine in China, and assisted by European and Chinese residents collected the sum of £30,249.1. Messrs. Gibb, Bright & Co., Managing Agents of the Eastern and Australian Steamship Co. Limited in Sydney have now forwarded this money to Messrs. Gibb, Livingston and Co., with the request that it should be handed over to the Tung Wah Hospital who will be able to distribute it for the purposes intended.

A Boiler and Engine Insurance Company is about to be established in Japan, founded by Mr. Thos. Kershaw, M. I. Meoh, E. of Koba, together with a number of influential gentlemen connected with cotton, silk, spinning mills throughout the country. Application for the necessary charter is now before the Government authorities. The object of the proposed company is to periodically inspect and insure all kinds of steam boilers, engines, and other land power plant and to carry on such business on similar lines to that carried on by similar British and Continental companies. At the present time steam boilers are periodically inspected by inspectors appointed by the municipal or police authorities, and much inconvenience is caused to steam users owing to their being compelled to shut down their boilers at short notice consequent upon the number of inspectors being very limited. Now boilers are being continually imported from Japan and their inspection entails a great expense (with no return) on the Government authorities, who are said to fully recognise the importance of this business being undertaken by a public concern.

MARINE COURT.

Wednesday, July 10th.

THE "HUNGSHAN" "FOOK ON" COLLISION.

The inquiry into the collision between the s.s. "Hungshan" and the steam launch "Fook On" was concluded yesterday afternoon before the Marine Court, the members of which were Commander Basil Taylor, R.N. (President), Lieutenant H. Butterworth, R.N., H.M.S. "Tamar," Captain E. Bestham, s.s. "Empress of India," Captain A. Stoker, s.s. "Woolwich," and Captain H. W. Walker of the s.s. "Kwong Tung."

The Engineer of the launch "Fook On" said he was in the engine room at the time of the collision. On leaving the pier the launch went astern with her engines for about one minute. Then the coxswain shouted to him to go ahead, which he did. Li Mak was the man who told him to go ahead. After going ahead for three or four seconds the "Hungshan" struck the launch. The witness climbed up on to the steamer. He saw the coxswain in the water, and noticed a passing sampan pick him up.

Sergeant Jackson, who was in charge of No. 7 Police launch, said he arrived just after the collision and picked up one man out of the water; the remainder were picked up by a sampan. Afterwards witness took these four men aboard the "Hungshan." They were all well. The court found that a panic occurred on board the "Fook On" which was intensified by the breaking of the bell wire. That, in consequence, everyone on board the launch left their stations, and no steps were taken to avoid collision. They considered it would have been more satisfactory if more accurate note had been taken in the engine room of the "Hungshan" of the times at which the several signals on the telegraph were made. They held that the officers of the "Hungshan" were acquitted from all blame, and that the coxswain of the "Fook On" was guilty of an error of judgment.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

BEFORE COMMANDER BASIL TAYLOR, R.N. (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE.

Chief Officer, G. E. Bridge, of the s.s. "Athens," proceeded against Michael Walsh, quartermaster of the said steamer, for being absent from duty without leave and without sufficient reason on the 8th instant.

G. E. Bridge, sworn, said that Walsh absented himself from his ship without leave on the 5th instant, and again on the 8th instant.

Defendant remarked that in other ships he had been in the habit of going ashore when he wanted to. In this ship he had always previously asked leave.

His Worship recorded a conviction and ordered the defendant to forfeit twelve days' pay, and to be imprisoned for three weeks, or until the ship sailed, when he would again be placed on board.

REFUSING TO STOP. Lui Shu, the owner of a licensed fishing boat, was prosecuted by Constable Clarke for refusing to stop in the harbour when hailed.

Defendant had nothing to say in answer to the charge, and was ordered to pay a fine of \$10, the alternative being one month's imprisonment.

PREVENTING FREE ACCESS. At the instance of Constable Downie, five rowing boat owners were prosecuted for unlawfully fastening their boats to the s.s. "Moyone" in such a manner as to prevent the free access of other vessels to the central fairway.

His Worship discharged the first defendant who produced a letter from the master of the "Moyone," and ordered the other defendants to be imprisoned for one month in default of payment of \$10 each.

It is no use to plead that we are plain, blunt men. We cannot help being plain; but we can certainly help being blunt.

TELEGRAMS.

["DAILY PRESS" EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.]

OBITUARY.

LONDON, July 10th.

Lord Pelham-Clinton, Sir Alfred Billson, and Sir William Broadbent are dead.

Lord E. W. Pelham-Clinton G.C.V.O., K.C.B., &c. was a Groom-in-waiting to H. M. the King, and formerly Master of Queen Victoria's Household. He was 71 years old. He did service as a soldier in the Crimea, Canada, and India.

Alfred Billson M.P. was 68 years old. He was a Leicester man of law, and a prominent Liberal.

Sir William Henry Broadbent, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.S. (and numerous other orders and degrees, both British and Foreign) was Physician in Ordinary to H.M. the King and Prince of Wales. He was 72 years old.

BELFAST LABOUR TROUBLES.

LONDON, July 10th.

Labour troubles at Belfast have had their sequel in strikes and riots.

JAPAN.

Tokyo, July 10th.

The Genro Council met this morning.

[BREITEN'S SERVICE.]

THE UNITED STATES FLEET.

LONDON, July 8th.

News from Washington says that useful work is quietly proceeding putting the navy and coast defences of the Pacific in good condition, as appropriations permit a dry dock is in course of construction at Puget Sound, and it is expected that a special effort will be made to dredge the channel to Maryland Naval Yard, making it accessible to heavy battleships. It is rumoured that Mr. Root on his forthcoming visit to Mexico will negotiate the purchase of a site for a naval station in Magdalena Bay, Lower California.

LATER.

The transfer of American battleships to the Pacific has excited attention in Japan.

President Roosevelt, through Rear Admiral Brownson, declares that he proposes to give the world a somewhat startling demonstration of what the American navy is capable of to protect either or both coasts of the United States. There can be no time like the present for such a demonstration, when the United States are at perfect peace with every nation.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

The monthly competitions for the Captain's Cup and May Cup were held at Happy Valley from the 6th to 8th July, 1907. The following returns were made:

CAPTAIN'S CUP.			
Mr. M. A. Murray	84	5	79
Mr. R. O. Hutchison	83	2	81
Mr. G. C. Moxon	99	18	81
Mr. E. J. Grist	85	2	83
(29 entries).			
MAY CUP.			
Mr. F. C. Hall	105	25	80
Mr. D. E. Clark	99	17	82
(5 entries).			
POOL.			
Mr. M. A. Murray	84	5	79
Mr. R. O. Hutchison	83	2	81
Mr. G. C. Moxon	99	18	81
Mr. G. E. Morrell	100	18	82
Mr. E. J. Grist	85	2	83
(28 entries).			

* Winner of Captain's Cup and Pool.
† Winner of May Cup.

NEW TERRITORY NOTES.

The first rice crop is very uneven this year, owing to the late spring and the lack of water. Some of the crop has been cut, but other portions remain green yet. Neither is the yield of grain up to the average of past years, but a great many fields that were allowed to be waste for want of water are now being ploughed in readiness for the second crop.

Among the other crops peanuts and sugar cane look very healthy, especially the former which may be expected to yield a good crop.

In spite of many drawbacks, progress is being made with bridge building on the railway route. Sickness among the labourers engaged in digging the foundations is not infrequent, and the constant pumping necessary to keep the foundations clear considerably retards the work. On the whole the undertaking is progressing satisfactorily.

With the advent of the railway the country shows signs of its coming prosperity. Villages are putting on an improved appearance, and new houses in new localities are being constructed. The village haunts are not so much in evidence as formerly, as the railway has given employment to the surplus population.

POLO.

The final of the quarterly polo tournament for the R.W.K. cup was won yesterday by the 3rd Middlesex team, who scored five goals to the Civilian team. Col. Scott-Moncrieff, Capt. Davey, and Messrs. H. E. Large and G. Dixon, composed the winning team. The Civilian contestants were Messrs. W. E. Elmer, G. Gibson, G. C. Moxon, and C. H. Ross. Four of the goals were scored by Mr. Large, and the other by Mr. Davey, but the clever co-operation of all four was necessary to the success.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SUBSIDIARY COINAGE QUESTION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"]

Hongkong 10th July, 1907.

SIR,—I hope the discussion which has arisen on the Government's notification with regard to Subsidiary Coins will result in a statement being made at the next meeting of the Legislative Council which will explain why the Government does not declare Chinese subsidiary coins to be illegal tender in the Colony. It seems to me that only by that means are we likely to see Hongkong coins predominate among our "small change." No redemption scheme is of much use without it.

With reference, sir, to the remarks on this question of redemption in your interesting leading article I disagree with the view that honestly obliges the Government to redeem all the coin it has issued. If it were true that the Government "undertook to stock the Chinese empire with subsidiary coinage" then I would agree with you. But they undertook nothing of the sort. They undertook to stock the Colony of Hongkong only, and they found that as fast as supplies of subsidiary coins were issued they disappeared into China, and there was consequently a chronic scarcity of subsidiary coins in Hongkong causing great inconvenience to trade. It was not out of any eagerness to pocket the seigniorage that Government continued to issue these coins, but to meet the urgent needs of the Colony. You can stop the import of coins much more effectively than you can stop their export, and I am one of those who would consider the Government justified in limiting their liability for the redemption of these coins.

Redemption at par to any amount is, I fear, an impossible proposal at the present time. If we assume that three-fourths of these coins are still in existence a loan of a couple of millions of dollars would be necessary as a Redemption Fund. The interest on this at, say, 4 per cent, would be \$80,000 a year, and if the Government redeemed more than three millions a year, the annual cost to the Colony would be nearly seven lakhs of dollars. The repayment of the principal would have to be postponed to the Greek Calends in view of the decline in extraordinary revenue and the threatened loss of one-fifth of the ordinary revenue by the extinction of the opium trade.—Yours truly, CHOPPED DOLLAR.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"]

Hongkong, 10th July 1907.

DEAR SIR,—I agree with your leader in this morning's paper. The policy of this Government in repudiating its own coins, like a Bank repudiating its own notes, is dishonest.

As soon as the Hongkong coins are sent home, Chinese coins are imported to fill the gap—of course, it pays the Banks, compradors, money changers, and other middlemen. Silver dollars are scarce, and here is a splendid opportunity for the Banks to demand a premium on their own notes, so who can blame them for bluffing the Government?

Now let the Government be honest and own up to its own dishonesty. Let it fix the discount on Hongkong coin, say, at 5 per cent discount, and let it redeem all Hongkong coin at that rate. We shall then have a fixed exchange and know where we are. The only way to drive out the Chinese coin is to make the Hongkong coin more valuable. The Hongkong coin at 5 per cent discount will be almost 3 per cent better than the Chinese coin and the latter will soon disappear from the market.

Let the Government buy at 5 per cent discount; it will be cheaper, quicker and more practical than sending coin home to be melted down. Besides we may be able to locate the millions of Hongkong coin!

Has this idea ever struck you?

Yours faithfully,

W. H. P.

"POUR PASSER LE TEMPS."

With the promulgation of the opium prohibition laws and the determination amongst a few of the slaves of that drug to get rid of the noxious habit, it behoves wide-awake people to get up amusements where opium smokers, who are trying to abandon the habit and those who have lately already done so, may pass a leisure hour and divert their minds from a craving for the drug. Now the most critical moments to the opium smoker are those which follow a well digested meal, for then he requires a good smoke—like the ordinary cigar lover—to help digest his dinner. The object of the opium smoker who wishes to get rid of his habit should be, therefore, to divert his thoughts from his usual infernal pipe, which is a very difficult matter, as vociferous of the goddess Nicotine will be willing to confess. In order, therefore, to help such people to pass a pleasant hour or two after dinner, several Chinese gentlemen have started a "Story-teller's Hall" No. 2, 253, Nanking Road, Shanghai, where tea is served and also loaned to those who wish it, and have engaged the well-known comic actor Liu Boobing, who is also a first class reciter, to recite comic stories, so that opium smokers may be assisted to pass away the critical period without resorting to the pipe. It must also be pointed out that, although these stories and tales are told in a comic manner, they are all perfectly innocent and harmless ones, and each one ends with a moral "to exhort people to good deeds and to eschew evil." Not a few persons who are trying to get rid of the opium habit have already concentrated the promoters of the Story-teller's Hall on their efforts and have thanked them for giving their thoughts from the noxious drug utterances. Some of the stories, which have a few lines of poetry, are sung to the accompaniment of a stringed musical instrument. As the Hall is a public place of gathering the greatest care is taken to avoid the least touch of anything of an objectionable nature in these tales and stories; in this respect they differ entirely from tobacco, where songs, etc., are sung in and around the Settlements.—N.C. Daily News.

REVIEWS.

MODERN FICTION.

The White Hand and the Black by BERTRAM MILFORD. London: John Long.

The author, who is another Rider Haggard, is not seen at his best in this production, and one may be pardoned for regarding it as a pot boiler. There is a decided dramatic element in the story, and if the reader has no previous acquaintance with the author he or she will find the book very entertaining. This story of African life deals with the penitential influence on the Ethiopians of the native Christians (sic) who preach the doctrine of "Africa for the African," and it will be found very readable.

A Country Squire, by GEORGE MANVILLE FENN. London: George Bell and Sons.

Although this is as the writer states at the outset, an improbable story, nevertheless it is exceptionally well conceived, and equally well written, the characters in the work being removed from the stereotyped plane. A country squire who is struck on the head with a gun barrel when endeavouring to capture a peacock, is heretofore of his reason as the result of the blow. Then he begins to doubt the fidelity of his wife, and disappearing mysteriously, makes his reappearance disguised as a detective. Thus he reveals himself to her in her hour of sorrow, but not knowing her lord shoots and nearly kills him—but not quite. He recovers, and perfect happiness follows the stormy times that are past.

Her Majesty's Rebels, by SIDNEY ROYCE LYNDAL. London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.

"Her Majesty's Rebels" is a work the reader cannot pick up without becoming interested in it. It is a story of a very old, but always prominent political theme—the wrongs of Ireland. The characters are real and attractive, especially that of the great Nationalist leader who aspires to a united Ireland, and is so far successful as to establish the bonds of union in the Irish party ranks. Then the wiles of a beautiful woman, another man's wife, bring about his downfall. The undaunted leader, however, throws all his energy into the task of again assuming the lead of the Nationalists, but when on the high road to success the hand of a murderer ends his life. It is a superior novel quite to the general run of modern productions.

A Yankee Napoleon, by JOHN MACPHERSON. London: John Long.

Sheer melodrama of the crudest, this story has not, as a preliminary notice promised, "a scientific basis," and the crudest thing ever done to H. G. Wells was to suggest that it had in any respect a likeness to "the Wells method of fiction." Mr. Wells has imagination. Mr. Macpherson has none. There is absolutely nothing new in his wonderful engines of warfare, and even his wonderful brain return is an old story. As it is the author's first book, this seems an unkind comparison, but he must blame his publishers for making it. To atone for our share of the suffering, we will publish the contributed particulars of the new literary lion.

Mr. John F. Macpherson is a colonist by birth. His grandfather John F. Macpherson, was one of the earliest squatters in Victoria, Australia, and founded the well known merino wool station, Nerrie Nerrie, a property which is still in the family. Our author's father, the late Hon. John Alexander Macpherson, became Prime Minister and Chief Secretary of Victoria in 1899, at the early age of thirty-five, one of the youngest premiers on record, and he was afterwards, for some years, Chief Secretary and Minister of Lands in Sir James McCulloch's government. His mother belongs to the Irish branch of the old Fetherstonhaugh family, of Border fame, and one of his sisters is married to Sir Charles Holroyd, the recently appointed director of the National Gallery, and late keeper of the Tate Gallery. Mr. Sidney Colvin of the British Museum, the well known literary and art connoisseur is an uncle. Mr. John F. Macpherson was born in Melbourne in 1873, but in 1878 was brought to England. He was educated at Harrow, where he was in the Cook House football eleven, and won the two hundred yards and quarter mile races and the high jump; and afterwards he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, and took his B.A. in 1895. Mr. F. Macpherson married in November of 1905 the sister of Mr. P. H. May the Cambridge double blue and Surrey cricketer, who was recently on tour with the M. C. C. cricketers in New Zealand. It was he who introduced Mr. May to Dr. W. G. Grace, who at once recognised Mr. May's capabilities and brought him out for London County. One of Mr. Macpherson's cousins is Mr. E. G. D. Wright, a well known Cambridge Corinthian and English International footballer and Captain of the Hull City League team. Mr. Macpherson has himself always been an enthusiastic footballer and cricketer and has founded two or three successful clubs. (But he has not, in spite of all this, yet written a good novel.)

WEATHER REPORT.

On the 10th at 11.55 a.m.—The barometer has fallen slightly on the E. coast of China, and risen a little over E. Japan.

A shallow zone of low pressure lies off the E. coast to the S. of Gataul. Elsewhere pressure is in slight to moderate excess of the normal. It is highest over the N. part of the China Sea, and the Pacific to the Southwest and Eastward of Japan.

Fresh S.W. winds may be expected in the Formosa Channel, and light monsoon and variable winds over the N. part of the China Sea. Hongkong rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

Hongkong & Neighbourhood... S. winds, light, fair.

Formosa Channel... S.W. winds, fresh.

South coast of China between... S. winds, light to moderate.

Hongkong and Lamcocks... S. winds, light to moderate.

South coast of China between... Same as No. 3.

Hongkong and Hainan... Same as No. 3.

FUNNELS AND FLAGS.

THE "SABOTAGE" CASE.

The actions brought in the Kobe (Chiba) Sabotage by the Tokyo Marine Insurance Company, and the owner of the schooner *Elyak* Maru against Captain W. Chubb, Master of the New York and Oriental Steamship Company's steamer *Satsuma*, for damages were dismissed on the 19th June.

On giving reasons for the decision in the case, the Court states that in regard to the jurisdiction of the Court of a civil case, one's place of residence (Kyushu) as specified in the Civil Code is designated as *guzashi* (stopping place) or *gensaichi* (place of presence) and distinguished from the place of residence, which is considered as a living headquarters. These two places of residence are made separately the standards for fixing the jurisdiction of the Court. For this reason, the place of plaintiff's attorney in regard to the jurisdiction of the Court in this case, which is based on Article 23 of the Civil Code cannot be applied generally. This plea, which is to be made where Article 13 of the Code of Civil Procedure is to be applied concerning the jurisdiction of the Court in international private law, is illegal. Defendant in this case has his domicile at No. 39, Septon Park, Haverhill, Liverpool, England. He has neither fixed his residence, nor stopped (*guzai*) in the premises of Messrs. DeWells & Co. in the late foreign Settlement, Kobe. This can be seen from Exhibit No. 11. For this reason, this Court has no jurisdiction in this case. Even taking Kobe as the place of the presence of defendant as contended, the spot at which the collision in this case occurred as admitted by both sides, was on the high seas, and as defendant has his residence in England, the Court of the place of presence of defendant would be incompetent to try a dispute which had arisen beyond the limits of the dominion of the Empire, as distinctly specified in Article 13 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff in bringing this action in this Court, which is incompetent to try it, is acting unlawfully, and the defence of defendant on this ground is justifiable. The case is therefore dismissed. Judgement assigned by Judge Haden Takayoshi, President, Judge Kakuoka Yasuji and Amano Sotaro—Kobe Herald.

THE "DOKOTA" INQUIRY.

Captain Emil Francke, former master of the wrecked liner "Dokota," returned to Seattle from San Francisco improved in health and with a determination to fight the recent ruling of the local inspectors, in connection with the wreck of the "Dokota."

When seen by a local journalist, Captain Francke said:—

"As I understand the findings of the local inspectors, they have not arrived at any definite decision in my case. They merely recommend that my license be not renewed for a period of thirty months. Recommend to what? To whom?"

Continuing, Captain Francke said:—Then the whole findings of the case seem so absurd. In several places the inspectors contradict themselves. They go on to say that they are surprised at a man of Captain Francke's ability doing thus and so in that particular instance, then close by charging me with being an unskillful navigator. It is absurd and I certainly will fight the matter to the finish."

In order to reach the Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor, Captain Francke will first have to appear to Inspector-General Uhler and from him to the Secretary. Arriving at Plymouth by the White Star liner "Persia," Captain Francke, a Norwegian, had a remarkable story to relate, his schooner, whilst on whaling expedition, having been cast away on one of the lonely Coast Islands in the South Atlantic. The vessel, the "Dokota," was driven on the rocks during a heavy hurricane. The crew of 14 hands managed to scramble ashore in safety, but before the ship's stores could be landed the vessel was smashed to matchwood on the rocks, only a solitary lifeboat being saved from the wreck. When the vessel broke up, several chests were washed ashore, and men were thus able to replenish their scanty wardrobe. The weather was bitterly cold, but they had not been for the roughness of the Royal Geographical Society, who had deposited in a cask a stock of provisions to supply the wants of any shipwrecked mariners who might be cast on the inhospitable shore, they must have died of starvation and exposure before help came. When the storm had subsided, it was realised that there was need for prompt action, as there were no means of replenishing the stores once they were exhausted. So the captain decided to get to sea in the lifeboat, with two men, to seek aid. After sailing for about 3,000 miles, he was picked up by a German barque, which eventually landed the three at Sydney. Other assistance was then dispatched to the island, and the men were rescued and brought back to civilization. In the meantime the Norwegian Government had chartered the steamer "Ingria," at Cape Town, with instructions to search for the wrecked crew, a tug which had been dispatched from D. S. on a similar mission having been compelled to return to port. Special coaling arrangements were made, the *Crosta* being 1,700 miles from Cape Town, and after a stormy passage, Captain Tjansvold and the men of the "Ingria" landed on the island. The remains of the ill-fated schooner were found to be resting upon a ridge of rocks near the shore, and along the beach were a number of sea lions, who took not the slightest notice of the intruders. The island itself, however, was deserted so far as human beings were concerned, and in a hut was found suspended an empty meat tin, carefully sealed, bearing the word "important." Inside was a notice, for the benefit of the searchers, stating that the crew of the "Cathrine" was taken off by the "Ingria," a New Zealand vessel. The "Ingria" by rescuers, relieved from further anxiety as to the fate of the men, explored their novel surroundings. The hut, they found, was built of wreckage from the schooner, and rendered waterproof with tarpaulin and sailcloth. The place was arranged inside like the fore-cabin of a ship, and divided into a kitchen and a sleeping and living room. From the ceiling sliced peacocks and fish were hung. Over the entrance to the hut was a board on which was painted the name of the wrecked vessel. A notebook, evidently belonging to one of the castaways, recorded the events following the wreck. Not the least interesting trace of the fate of the "Cathrine's" crew was a floating ladder anchored to the bottom of the sea on the island. It was a barrel, pierced with holes, and contained about a dozen live fish which the "Ingria's" crew made a meal of. The barrel was connected to the shore by a rope, so that, when required, the "floating ladder" could be hauled ashore.

TERRIBLE WEATHER IN INDIAN OCEAN.

The experiences of Captain Von Dohren of the Hamburg-America liner "Scandia," which arrived at Colombo from Hamburg, on June 22, on her way to the Far East, seem to have been of a most sensational nature during the voyage between Aden and Colombo. Captain Dohren sent in the following report to the Master Attendant:—Near Socatra we had a very severe storm from S.S.W., with a heavy cross sea. An enormous sea spread over the poop; washed

eight Chinese (six deck-passengers and two crewmen) overboard. Stopped and turned the ship. Saw no signs of the men. That afternoon, a Times of Ceylon representative interviewed the skipper and gleaned the following particulars of the occurrence. The "Scandia" had a fine passage as far as Sur, but the Red Sea was extremely hot. The Chinese passengers, seventeen men and two children, who were on their way home, much against the Captain's orders, slept on deck. Everything went well up to Socatra. Off the coast of Socatra the weather changed, and a terrific storm sprang up. The wind was blowing violently and the waves were mountain high. All on board spent a most anxious time. On Sunday, at about 2 o'clock in the morning, the storm was at its height. The Chinese men were again on the deck asleep, against the Captain's orders. Waves swept right across the ship, taking everything in their way. The ship's lights were blown out and some of the deck and other equipment of the ship were found floating about later on. Six of the Chinese passengers and two crewmen of the ship, men of the same nationality, were washed overboard with the bedding and mats. The steamer was stopped and turned. A most careful search was made for some hours, but there were no traces of the unfortunate men.

The Chinese passengers were employees of the Hamburg-America Line. The Captain of the "Scandia" is an experienced sailor. He has been engaged in the Far Eastern trade for over seventeen years, and is well-known at this port. Referring to the storm, he says: I never experienced such a storm in my life.

THE TAIREN CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

A Tairen message to the *Asahi* gives the provisional Regulations of the Customs House of the leased district of Kwangtung, as published by General Oshima, Governor-General of Kwangtung.

The Regulations read:—

Article I.—On foreign articles imported from abroad or articles made of foreign materials, when imported into the interior, Customs duty shall be imposed.

On foreign articles imported from Chinese open ports, when imported into the interior, Customs duty shall be imposed, when the official receipt for duty paid is not presented.

When foreign articles imported from Chinese open ports have been consumed in the leased district, or re-exported from the leased district, reimbursement of the duty paid can be obtained from the Customs House of port at which the duty was paid only on presentation of the payment of the duty issued by the Customs authorities at the port of shipment.

Article II.—On Chinese articles imported from the interior, Customs duty shall be imposed, when imported into the interior, upon presentation of the receipt of duty paid on them, coasting-trade duty shall be imposed.

Article III.—On Chinese articles imported from Chinese open ports, in case of the absence of the receipt of the duty paid on them, a sum equal to the import duty due on such articles shall be deposited at the Customs House. When any dishonest practice is discovered on the part of the importer, the money so deposited together with the imported goods, may be confiscated.

Article IV.—On Chinese articles imported into the leased district by land when exported, export duty shall be imposed.

Article V.—On the products of leased district, or articles manufactured from the products of the leased district or of materials imported from abroad, when exported, export duty shall be imposed, provided that a certificate of production issued by the Japanese authorities is presented.

Article VI.—On articles made of materials imported from the interior, or Chinese ports by sea, when exported, export duty shall be imposed either on the materials or on the articles themselves at the option of the exporter.

Article VII.—On foreign articles on which import duty has been paid at Chinese open ports or on Chinese articles on which export duty has been paid, when exported from Tairen, no export duty shall be imposed.

Article VIII.—On articles sent from or into the interior in accordance with the transit regulations of the interior, transit duty shall be imposed in addition to export or import duty.

Articles IX. to XVII., are provisions relating to the importation or exportation of opium.

Article XVIII.—Arms, ammunition, and explosives or their component parts, when imported, shall not be discharged from vessels or landed before permission has been obtained of the Customs authorities.

Article XIX.—Arms, ammunition, and their component parts shall not be allowed to be transported into the interior or Chinese ports without a certificate issued by the Chinese authorities.

Article XX.—The preceding two Articles shall not be applied to arms, ammunition, &c., for the use of the Japanese army, navy or police.

Article XXI.—The Customs authorities shall be empowered to examine goods for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are of the nature of goods imported or exported, and for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are of the nature of goods imported or exported.

Article XXII.—A Customs permit must be obtained for the transportation of goods. Goods transported without obtaining a Customs permit will be confiscated, and the captain of vessels concerned may be fined according to circumstances.

Article XXIII.—The rates of the duties imposed on goods passing through the Customs area are as follows:—

1.—The import duty on foreign articles shall be imposed according to the amended import tariff of 1902.

2.—The duty on Chinese articles exported or imported shall be imposed according to the old Chinese Customs tariff.

Article XXIV.—Protests against confiscation or fine to the Superintendent of Customs shall be dealt with according to the spirit of the Regulation to confiscation or fine, agreed upon at Peking on May 31st, 1898.

Article XXV.—The office hours of the Customs House shall be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., exclusive of Sundays and holidays, but the examination of goods shall be conducted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Article XXVI.—Before 6 a.m. and after 6 p.m. and on Sundays and holidays, no cargo shall be shipped or discharged without the special permission of the Superintendent of the Customs. This rule shall not apply to passengers' luggage and mail.

The fees for the special opening of the Customs House are as follows:—

1.—Before 6 a.m., 10 Haikwan taels.

2.—From 6 p.m. to midnight, 10 Haikwan taels.

3.—From 6 p.m. next day, 20 Haikwan taels.

For Sundays—40 taels for the day and 20 taels for the half day; the same rates apply to holidays.

Article XXVII.—All communications relating to Customs business must be addressed to the Superintendent of Customs.

Article XXVIII.—The word "interior" used in this Regulation means the Chinese territory beyond the limit of the district leased by Japan.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

MR. MORLEY AND THE AGITATORS.

Mr. Morley's second Indian Budget statement will probably rank as one of the most important of modern times. It was delivered under conditions of unusual difficulty. The Secretary for India, a man of pronounced radical views, found himself confronted with a situation in which it was impossible, without sacrificing both Imperial and Indian interests, to carry out the principles of administration with which he has long been prominently associated in connection with India, and which part of the political gospel of many of his friends on the Government side of the House. He has taken the course which was expected of him by all who have watched his action while at the India Office. Political theory has given place to practical necessity. His speech was a splendid vindication of the system of government now in operation in India. Certain changes were indeed fore-shadowed, and an inquiry into the question of over-centralisation was practically promised, but Morley put his foot down firmly on the suggestion that India should be left to govern itself, and he insisted that at all costs order must and would be maintained.

It was not a large House as Houses go in these strenuous times, but it was unusually large for an Indian night. While there were a certain number of eyes on the benches behind the Government and still more on the Opposition side, the "strangers' gallery" was densely crowded, a large proportion of their occupants being brown-skinned natives of India. Conspicuous in the distinguished Strangers' Gallery were the picture-wise turbaned figure of two important native rulers—the Maharajah of Bikanir and the Maharajah of Alwar.

Mr. Morley's statement was full of the phrasing and contained many striking passages. At times he spoke with such fire and energy, emphasising his utterances with a great deal of vigorous gesture, that unfortunately his voice was not equal to the great strain imposed upon it by a two hours' oration, and many sentences were almost inaudible. The keynote of the speech was struck quite early. This was, he said, almost the first occasion on which the British democracy in its full strength had been brought directly face to face with the difficulties of Indian government. Energetically striking the brass bound box with his open palm he declared that the democracy was confronted with one of the most difficult experiments ever tried in human history—"that of carrying on, as I think you will have to carry on, personal government with the rights of free speech and free publication. Then, in a fine passage, he carried the House to the heart of the matter in the language it most loves. "What is said here is overheard thousands of miles away by a great and complex community... by our friends, and by those whom I am afraid I must reluctantly call our enemies."

"The Budget is a prosperity Budget," Mr. Morley added, though he had to admit that the black shadow of the plague was still thrown across the Indian horizon. "What is said here is overheard thousands of miles away by a great and complex community... by our friends, and by those whom I am afraid I must reluctantly call our enemies."

But the important part of the speech was reserved for the end. It related to the disorder in the Punjab and to the deportation without trial of two of the agitators. Mr. Morley vigorously defended the refusal to prosecute the agitators on the ground that it would result in a trial of two of the agitators. Mr. Morley vigorously defended the refusal to prosecute the agitators on the ground that it would result in a trial of two of the agitators.

He exposed the vile attempt made by the agitators to inflame the passions of the native Indian population by telling them that the Government was spreading the plague by poisoning streams and wells, and asked the House to realise what might have happened had a single native regiment sided with the rioters.

Then, speaking with much emphasis and deliberation, he asserted that it would have been a disaster to the Government had the rioters been allowed to go on unchecked. He said that he was in a position to say that the Government was spreading the plague by poisoning streams and wells, and asked the House to realise what might have happened had a single native regiment sided with the rioters.

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G. Hardy, Liberal member for the Sturminster Division, moved an amendment, which, while affirming the imperative necessity of maintaining peace and order in India asked for an inquiry into "the causes at the root of the dissatisfaction." Dr. Rathford, another Ministerialist, announced that he was torn by conflicting emotions, one being the of esteem for a charming personality, the other that of allegiance to Liberal principles. The second of these feelings appeared to predominate, for he declared his conviction that the deportation of the agitators was not in accord with either justice or honour. Mr. O'Grady, a Labour Member, saw in Mr. Morley's arguments a justification of Dublin Castle tyranny and of the Russian autocracy, but Mr. Smeaton and others supported the Government. This amendment was, oddly enough, "talked out" by one of its supporters, Mr. C. O'Donnell.

PRINCE BULOW AND THE COURT CAMARILLA.

The Berlin Correspondent of the Times wrote on Jan. 6th:

The confused and confusing discussion which has been excited in the Press by the resignations of General Count Moltke and General Count Hohenhausen and by the disgrace into which Prince Philip Eulenburg is believed to have fallen at Court is not so devoid of method as might at first appear, and in perhaps not altogether without design. The question whether Prince Bulow was aware of the existence of a *camarilla* and whether the Imperial Chancellor has been successful in his struggle with the Emperor William's irresponsible advisers without prejudice to his own influence and position, is the central point of interest of the whole matter. The answer to this question, which yesterday seemed definitely affirmative, today makes itself heard with a less certain sound, and it is perfectly evident that efforts are being made to obscure the issue. According to the testimony of competent observers, among whom may be numbered the Berlin correspondent of the *Kölnische Volkszeitung*, there are indications that in "certain very high quarters" the Imperial Chancellor is held to have gone too far in emphasizing in the *North-German Gazette* the passage in his speech in the Reichstag last year in which he implied the existence of a *camarilla*. In these circles it is considered that utterances of this kind are merely calculated to disturb the public mind, to make the Court unpopular, and to furnish the Socialist Press with welcome material for agitation.

The semi-official *Volkszeitung* appears to have become the mouthpiece of these called malcontents, and publishes in conspicuous type paragraphs to the effect that it is an attempt to obscure the issue. According to the testimony of competent observers, among whom may be numbered the Berlin correspondent of the *Kölnische Volkszeitung*, there are indications that in "certain very high quarters" the Imperial Chancellor is held to have gone too far in emphasizing in the *North-German Gazette* the passage in his speech in the Reichstag last year in which he implied the existence of a *camarilla*.

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THE FRANCO-JAPANESE ENTENTE.

The Paris correspondent of the Times wrote on June 4th:—

This morning's *Echo de Paris* publishes an interview on the Franco-Japanese entente which a well known member of its staff, M. Henri de Noussance, has had with M. Harmand, formerly French Minister at Tokyo for 12 years, who, as he reminded his interlocutor, had witnessed the war with China, the revision of the treaties referring to Consular jurisdiction, the Boxer rising, and the Russo-Japanese war. Certain statements made by M. Harmand are of paramount interest. They are, in fact, the first authorized expression of opinion on the treaty.

M. Harmand described the position of France in the Far East as being as favourable as possible. He believes that the agreement with Siam and the *entente* with Japan amount, so to speak, to two insurance policies guaranteeing the French establishments in Indo China against Asiatic invasion. He does not believe and never did believe in aggressive intentions on the part of Japan against Indo China. Among the European powers with a reach of Japan he considers France much more interesting for that. Power than are those belonging to France. He attached no credence to the story that Japan coveted Indo-China as a rice granary. The northern region of the large island of Honshu and the superb country of Hokkaido constituted a precious reserve for the economic future of Japan. M. Harmand further remarked that it was much more simple and inexpensive for Japan to purchase rice than to make war, which would cost millions, to obtain it. "Let us,"

he said, "do the Japanese people the honour to believe that their ambition is above questions of alimentations."

M. Harmand admitted that the Japanese were anxious to obtain financial credit in Europe and that the forthcoming *entente* had the great merit in their eyes of securing for them the support of the largest money market in the world. It was France who would thus consolidate the acquisitions made at the cost of her ally Russia. "But," added M. Harmand, "we have only acted with the assent and agreement of that ally, who has herself decided to pass the sponge over the conflict of yesterday. We also naturally acted in agreement with our English friends and neighbours in order to constitute the first form of new grouping of world action (un groupement nouveau d'action mondiale) of which I myself solicited the creation."

I therefore regard the convention in question as an expected consequence of new political circumstances resulting from the Japanese victory over our *rapprochement* with Great Britain, and from the recognition by the latter Great Power of the value for European peace and for the peace of the world of a strong and well-organized Russia."

Referring to the impression made in Germany and the United States by the Franco-Japanese entente, M. Harmand said:—

"This nervousness is to be accounted for by the uncertainty of the times we live in, by the troubled condition of Europe, which never at any time accept a disengagement of one single Power over the rest. Moreover, the public conscience, taking a broader and more profound view of things, refuses to-day to admit the success of might over right and to accept those forced changes of nationality which formerly were considered merely as the legitimate application of the rights of the Crown."

JAPANESE AND FORMOSA.

According to the figures given by Mr. Takekoshi, in his "Japan: Rule in Formosa," the population of Formosa consists of 2,800,000 Chinese colonists, and 1,000,000 aborigines, and 50,000 Japanese. There are two classes of Chinese—the Haklos and the Hakkos. The former, numbering about 2,400,000, are emigrants from the provinces of Fukien; the latter about 400,000, being from the region of Canton. The writer points out that the first step of Baron Goto's administration was to buy out the proprietary rights of the landholders, which was done for 2,857,243, a sum that suggests there was no overvaluation. A complete survey was then made of all low-lying territory, and 1,335,000 of which were under cultivation, and 1,780,000 follow. The Government was then able to make a new assessment of the land tax, which was increased from 428,000 to nearly 530,000. Besides acquiring the land, Baron Goto decided to monopolize the oil, production industries of the island, including the opium, salt, and sugar, and to extend the monopoly system to the land, and administer the whole territory of Formosa as a big State farm, importing tenants from Japan for the unfertile area, and encouraging emigration by subsidised aid. Then Japan goes steadily on towards State Socialism, while the Government strenuously opposes unauthorized Socialist propaganda.

Mr. Takekoshi's book on Formosa has a preface by Baron Goto, and both writers direct attention to the strategic position of Formosa as an important factor of the international situation in the Far East. Formosa is the key to the northern end of the China Sea, and as such occupies a position resembling that of Gibraltar at the western entrance of the Mediterranean. It is separated from the China coast by a sea way 75 miles broad, this sea-way being divided into two narrow channels by the Fureudore Islands, which are capable of shutting ring the entire Japanese fleet. Vessels entering or leaving the China Sea must pass through one of these channels, since the route to the west of Formosa is not only circuitous but also exposed to the full force of the dreaded typhoon which is the scourge of the North Pacific Ocean. Insignificant as a commercial clearing-house when compared with Hongkong, the strategic value of Formosa is greater than that of the British stronghold, which vessel can elude, while Formosa stands right athwart their track. After setting forth these facts, the *Times* reviewer of the book proceeds: "Quick to perceive the belligerent value of their new possession, immediately after annexation the Japanese Government hastened to assure the Powers that the Formosa channel would at all times be open to the ships of the world both during peace and war." "But," he continues, "though it served its purpose at the time, the declaration is, of course, as worthless as any other similar engagement would be when confronted by a situation of war. *Inter arma silent leges*. When the day comes for that inevitable struggle for mastery of the Pacific, recently forecasted by President Roosevelt, Japan, if she has the strength to do so, will make just what use she pleases of the strategic advantage which the command of the Formosa channel will confer on her admirals." The cynical disclaimer in Japanese assurances thus aroused by the *Times* reviewer affords a curious commentary on the standard of international morality.

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JAPANESE IN CHINA.

Japanese correspondents of a London paper write—

It may be said of the Agreement between France and Japan that rarely has a compact of equal moment to the world's large been carried through with less misgiving in the minds of critics or with greater certainty that its provisions will be of the utmost value in the interests of the general peace.

That its execution should be simultaneous with the redressances in China of a reactionary policy is a coincidence to be noted, but the fact is nevertheless of good augury. Combinations of Powers that, directly or indirectly, have for their main object the maintenance of the existing situation, as far as concerns the territorial integrity of the Chinese Empire, will assuredly be of no ordinary weight and importance in the days that are comparatively near at hand, judging from the evidences that are accumulating on all sides of growing uneasiness within China's borders. The influence that it is to be brought to bear by the allied nations can scarcely be overestimated by the common standard when the Peking Government is concerned, and is more likely to be underestimated than the reverse. More than one able writer has set forth in detail the causes of the existing tension, and it only remains to explain in some degree the attitude of the Japanese towards this fresh menace to the tranquillity of the Far East.

Let it be said at the outset that Japan is not to be held accountable for the things of "Tang China" when once the students who may have been passing a portion of their time in Tokyo and other Japanese cities return to their homes in the Flowery Land. For the system adopted in respect of those students' stay abroad the Chinese are themselves responsible, and as far as Japan is in question it is sufficient to say that when Japanese students were sent abroad to acquire knowledge they were subject to regulations that were quite different from those by which the Chinese are bound today. They had every incentive to work, and in practice they had little leisure or inclination in those days for indulging in the study of politics. We allude, of course, to the early years of the Meiji era, when the aim of those Japanese who were despatched abroad was to accumulate a store of useful information such as might be expected to yield a practical return for the investment of time and money. It would be hard to say for the prospects of a "Young China," perhaps, if politics were to absorb less of the Chinese students' attention, also at this stage of their career. It is certainly not the practice of the Japanese Government to encourage or even to permit the dissemination of revolutionary principles by agitators among the Chinese students in Japan, and Sun Yat Sen's efforts in this direction, for example, have been consistently frowned upon from the first. Apart from the tendency to indulge in anti-dynastic schemes of reform, however, which are very unlikely to reach a serious stage in the immediate future, there is not, it is believed, any actual basis for apprehension of disorder in China on a large scale; and the more that the East becomes associated with the West in competitive life that which France and Japan have now practically entered into the less becomes the likelihood that China will of her own accord take any step reactionary or otherwise, that would be calculated to invite the interference of outside Powers.

While the writer is especially concerned to correct the Foreign Ministers, and in particular Sir Claude MacDonald, the book is a libel on the garrison as a whole. The great majority are directly charged with the basest parricide. According to the writer, many able-bodied men, skulked in the comparatively protected British Legation, and even hid themselves for days at a time, only emerging at the conclusion of the siege to receive the meed of heroes. If there be a shadow of truth in this charge, how is it that, with half a hundred different accounts of the siege in existence, we have heard nothing of it until this anonymous "diplomat" comes forward to make these "revelations"? It is alleged that at the outset of the trouble the commanders of the various foreign detachments in Peking met and conferred, "each carefully instructed by his own Minister just how far he is to acquiesce in his colleagues' proposals, which, roughly speaking, not at all." That when the Chinese Government sent a dispatch alleging that the Legations could no longer be protected, the diplomatic corps met only to indulge in mutual recriminations; that on the following day a proposal to visit the T'ungli Yamen in a body was made and set aside "with nervous protestations." In short, while the rank and file showed a wretched cowardice, the "chicken-hearted chiefs" displayed from first to last gross "culpability" and shameful "bungling."

Happily, the matter here shown is so extravagant that it defies its own object. There is scarcely necessity to point out that with the exception of this alleged "diplomat," it is unanimously agreed that the men who went through the siege behaved throughout with a steadfastness, devotion, and gallantry beyond all praise, while the terribly hard and anxious work done by women of many nationalities in the hospital elicited admiration and respect from all concerned and was sufficient answer to the vulgarly with which they are assailed by Mr. Putnam Wade's friend. As to

the aspersions of the British Minister, we may recall that when Sir Claude left the Chinese capital after the siege, Dr. Morrison wired to the Times—"Sir Claude MacDonald," left Peking to-day amid genuine manifestations of regret by the entire community who gratefully remember his splendid services during the recent siege, when the chief direction of the defence was in his hands."

As we say, for the careful reader in the East there is no necessity to do more than refer to the evidence on the other side. He will be convinced before going far into the book that no "diplomat" has been engaged in its compilation—that the writer of the letters was never in the diplomatic service of any country, and that his statements are guesswork animated by malice. That is the conclusion we have arrived at not only from internal evidence but from other information in our possession. We think we can make a shrewd guess at the genesis of the book. It was, undoubtedly, the suppression of feeling and our rage after the relief of the Legations that the British and other Ministers incurred the resentment of certain of their nationals. Strong measures had to be taken, even in some cases to the issue of warrants, against men who, as the writer of the book solemnly admits, took advantage of their knowledge of Peking geography and their intimate acquaintance with Chinese assistance original forays of pillage and blackmail. To such men the efforts of Sir Claude MacDonald and the other Ministers to restore order were so many interferences with legitimate private enterprise, and the issue of a warrant, even though it could be evaded by keeping outside the sector of the city where it might be executed, was nothing short of a scandalous outrage on individual liberty.

Shall we be wrong in coming to the conclusion that the writer of these alleged "Indiscreet Letters" is of this type, and that the friend for whom Mr. Putnam Wade has undertaken the "editing" of this book is animated merely by hatred of those who spoiled his plans for personal aggrandizement? The book adds to its offence in that it is doubly anonymous. The alleged "diplomat" to whom it is attributed not only conceals his identity, but we venture to assert he has no existence; while "Putnam Wade" is itself an assumed name and a name *non descriptum*. Yet it is under this double anonymity, if the phrase may be permitted, that these serious charges are made and the glib and endurance which marked a terrible stage subjected to misrepresentation. The writer who assumes the name of "Putnam Wade" will not add to his credit by these "Indiscreet Letters," the real indiscretions of which are the self-revelations they unconsciously embody, while their tone and temper can only be reproached by all with any sense of fairness or justice, and lead us to wonder that any respectable publisher can have been found to associate his name with such a work. We only notice the book by way of entering a protest against this attempt on the part of an anonymous scribbler, assisted by a pseudonym editor, to tarnish the characters of men who have, doubtless for good and sufficient reasons, earned his deep resentment.

THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS, THURSDAY, JULY 11th, 1907.

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FALSEHOOD OR INDISCRETION

The Japan Chronicle says—From one cause or another the siege of the Peking Legations in 1900 gave a curious impetus to what may be called, according to temperament, imaginative or unscrupulous journalism. There was the case of the telegram to a notorious London journal which announced that all the foreigners in Peking had been done to death by the Boxers amid circumstances of shocking barbarity—a telegram which was reproduced by the Times, with acknowledgments and thanks to the Daily Mail for its courtesy, together with a sheet of obituary notices followed by a memorial service in St. Paul's Cathedral for victims who in the majority of cases are happily still with us. There was also the case in which the Daily Express went one better than the Daily Mail, and published a telegram with even more gruesome and harrowing details than that which had sold such a large edition of its rival. It was, moreover, the telegrams from Shanghai relating to the siege of the Legations which strengthened the impression that Peking correspondents in that part of the world had either remarkably inventive imaginations or were of a credulity which was hard to parallel elsewhere, with the result that Shanghai suffered seriously in reputation.

Some of our readers have doubtless read a book bearing the title "Indiscreet Letters from Peking," and purporting on the title page to be edited by B. L. Putnam Wade. That book, also, bears evidence of having been manufactured in Shanghai. Mr. Putnam Wade says the letters are by a diplomat, who "knew exactly what was going on from day to day, and even from hour to hour, in the diplomatic world of the Chinese capital during the memorable times" of the Boxer movement. All that he claims to have done is simply to edit the diary of a Christian the compilation of "Indiscreet Letters from Peking," to strike out passages which could not be published, and to give them publicity, and, we may add, to substitute initials for familiar names in such a way that identity is not for a moment concealed. When, however, Mr. Putnam Wade again sits down to edit letters, he may be advised to strike out those portions of the correspondence reflecting a knowledge of events subsequent to the date at which the particular letter was written. A man does not usually record in May that a certain individual "obviously concealed," and was soon to happen "when that happening did not take place until June. Thus recorded, it is clear the "petition" is subsequent to the event. There are many such indications that the letters are bogus, that they were not written by a diplomat as alleged, that they have not had to be edited to avoid even worse disclosures than are made, but that they were edited after the siege with motives that will scarcely bear investigation.

The book can only be described as malicious both in intent and execution. Whether the writer is dealing with the conditions prevailing before the memorable uprising in Peking in 1900, the actual siege of the Legations, or the looting which took place when the relieving army entered the Chinese capital, the underling motive throughout appears hatred of the Foreign Representatives and contempt for the Foreign Representatives who for so many weeks were exposed to the danger of a terrible death. Indeed, with the possible exception of Colonel Shiba, who commanded the Japanese, the only individual throughout the siege who appears worthy of praise is the writer of the letters himself, who on his own showing displayed a courage and resources that is always making drafts on the reader's imagination, but even he succumbed when the Legations were finally relieved, to the Greek joys and not inconsiderable profits summed up in the word "loot."

His excuse is that "everybody was tarred with the same brush," which, happily, there is ample reason to believe is unfounded as many of our statements in the book.

While the writer is especially concerned to correct the Foreign Ministers, and in particular Sir Claude MacDonald, the book is a libel on the garrison as a whole. The great majority are directly charged with the basest parricide. According to the writer, many able-bodied men, skulked in the comparatively protected British Legation, and even hid themselves for days at a time, only emerging at the conclusion of the siege to receive the meed of heroes. If there be a shadow of truth in this charge, how is it that, with half a hundred different accounts of the siege in existence, we have heard nothing of it until this anonymous "diplomat" comes forward to make these "revelations"? It is alleged that at the outset of the trouble the commanders of the various foreign detachments in Peking met and conferred, "each carefully instructed by his own Minister just how far he is to acquiesce in his colleagues' proposals, which, roughly speaking, not at all." That when the Chinese Government sent a dispatch alleging that the Legations could no longer be protected, the diplomatic corps met only to indulge in mutual recriminations; that on the following day a proposal to visit the T'ungli Yamen in a body was made and set aside "with nervous protestations." In short, while the rank and file showed a wretched cowardice, the "chicken-hearted chiefs" displayed from first to last gross "culpability" and shameful "bungling."

Happily, the matter here shown is so extravagant that it defies its own object. There is scarcely necessity to point out that with the exception of this alleged "diplomat," it is unanimously agreed that the men who went through the siege behaved throughout with a steadfastness, devotion, and gallantry beyond all praise, while the terribly hard and anxious work done by women of many nationalities in the hospital elicited admiration and respect from all concerned and was sufficient answer to the vulgarly with which they are assailed by Mr. Putnam Wade's friend. As to

the aspersions of the British Minister, we may recall that when Sir Claude left the Chinese capital after the siege, Dr. Morrison wired to the Times—"Sir Claude MacDonald," left Peking to-day amid genuine manifestations of regret by the entire community who gratefully remember his splendid services during the recent siege, when the chief direction of the defence was in his hands."

As we say, for the careful reader in the East there is no necessity to do more than refer to the evidence on the other side. He will be convinced before going far into the book that no "diplomat" has been engaged in its compilation—that the writer of the letters was never in the diplomatic service of any country, and that his statements are guesswork animated by malice. That is the conclusion we have arrived at not only from internal evidence but from other information in our possession. We think we can make a shrewd guess at the genesis of the book. It was, undoubtedly, the suppression of feeling and our rage after the relief of the Legations that the British and other Ministers incurred the resentment of certain of their nationals. Strong measures had to be taken, even in some cases to the issue of warrants, against men who, as the writer of the book solemnly admits, took advantage of their knowledge of Peking geography and their intimate acquaintance with Chinese assistance original forays of pillage and blackmail. To such men the efforts of Sir Claude MacDonald and the other Ministers to restore order were so many interferences with legitimate private enterprise, and the issue of a warrant, even though it could be evaded by keeping outside the sector of the city where it might be executed, was nothing short of a scandalous outrage on individual liberty.

Shall we be wrong in coming to the conclusion that the writer of these alleged "Indiscreet Letters" is of this type, and that the friend for whom Mr. Putnam Wade has undertaken the "editing" of this book is animated merely by hatred of those who spoiled his plans for personal aggrandizement? The book adds to its offence in that it is doubly anonymous. The alleged "diplomat" to whom it is attributed not only conceals his identity, but we venture to assert he has no existence; while "Putnam Wade" is itself an assumed name and a name *non descriptum*. Yet it is under this double anonymity, if the phrase may be permitted, that these serious charges are made and the glib and endurance which marked a terrible stage subjected to misrepresentation. The writer who assumes the name of "Putnam Wade" will not add to his credit by these "Indiscreet Letters," the real indiscretions of which are the self-revelations they unconsciously embody, while their tone and temper can only be reproached by all with any sense of fairness or justice, and lead us to wonder that any respectable publisher can have been found to associate his name with such a work. We only notice the book by way of entering a protest against this attempt on the part of an anonymous scribbler, assisted by a pseudonym editor, to tarnish the characters of men who have, doubtless for good and sufficient reasons, earned his deep resentment.

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